

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (original) A method for controlling the directional
2 characteristic of a hearing device comprising the steps of
3 detecting directional orientation of distinct acoustical
4 sources with respect to the hearing aid, forming a histogram
5 of said directional orientations of said sources and
6 introducing an increased attenuation for acoustical signals
7 received from a source which fulfils a predetermined criterion
8 with respect to directional orientation in said histogram.

1 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 providing a sensor configuration which has at least two
4 electrical outputs, said sensor configuration having transfer
5 functions between an input on which acoustic signals impinge
6 and said two outputs to generate electric signals on the
7 outputs that are differently dependent on the directional
8 orientation with which said acoustic signal impinges on said
9 input and further defining a predetermined course of a
10 function of said electric signals generated at at lease least
11 two of said outputs in dependency of said directional
12 orientation,

13 monitoring said function of momentarily prevailing
14 electric signals at said two outputs,

15 determining the directional orientations which includes
16 correlating said monitored function of momentarily prevailing
17 electric signals with said predetermined course of said
18 function, and

19 forming said histogram function from the result of said
20 monitoring.

1 3. (original) The method of one of claim 2, wherein said
2 function is a ratio of said electric signals at said two
3 outputs as a function of directional orientation of said
4 acoustical signal impinging on said sensors.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the step of providing at least one of said two electric
3 outputs from at least two pairs of at least three of said
4 electric outputs, thereby reducing an ambiguity of said
5 directional orientation monitored.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising
2 the step of providing three of said pairs.

1 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further
2 comprising the step of performing a time domain to ~~frequent~~
3 the frequency domain conversion on said momentarily prevailing
4 signals.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising
2 the step of tailoring said transfer functions to be
3 substantially equally shaped but phase shifted by a
4 predetermined spacial angle.

1 8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further
2 comprising the step of adjusting spatial amplification of said
3 hearing device in dependency of said histogram.

1 9. (new) A method for controlling the directional
2 characteristic of a hearing device comprising the steps of:
3 detecting directional orientation of distinct acoustical
4 sources with respect to the hearing aid;
5 analyzing said directional orientations of said sources

6 to obtain a function depending on a statistical frequency
7 distribution of said directional orientations; and
8 introducing an increased attenuation for acoustical
9 signals received from a source which satisfies a criterion
10 according to said function.

1 10. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 providing a sensor configuration which has at least two
4 electrical outputs, said sensor configuration having transfer
5 functions between an input on which acoustic signals impinge
6 and said two outputs to generate electric signals on the
7 outputs that are differently dependent on the directional
8 orientation with which said acoustic signal impinges on said
9 input and further defining a predetermined course of a
10 function of said electric signals generated at at least two of
11 said outputs in dependency of said directional orientation;
12 monitoring said function of momentarily prevailing
13 electric signals at said two outputs;
14 determining the directional orientations which includes
15 correlating said monitored function of momentarily prevailing
16 electric signals with said predetermined course of said
17 function; and
18 forming said statistical frequency distribution from the
19 result of said monitoring.

1 11. (new) The method of one of claim 10, wherein said
2 function is a ratio of said electric signals at said two
3 outputs as a function of directional orientation of said
4 acoustical signal impinging on said sensors.

1 12. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising the
2 step of providing at least one of said two electric outputs
3 from at least two pairs of at least three of said electric

4 outputs, thereby reducing an ambiguity of said directional
5 orientation monitored.

1 13. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising the
2 step of providing three of said pairs.

1 14. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising the
2 step of performing a time domain to frequency domain
3 conversion on said momentarily prevailing signals.

1 15. (new) The method of claim 10, further comprising the
2 step of tailoring said transfer functions to be substantially
3 equally shaped but phase shifted by a predetermined spacial
4 angle.

1 16. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising the
2 step of adjusting spatial amplification of said hearing device
3 in dependency of said histogram.